

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 23, 2008. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15 to 32 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 11, 13, 18, 24 and 30 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 7 to 9, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,923,013 (Suzuki). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Suzuki in view of art which the Examiner considers to be well known prior art. The Examiner takes the position that it is well known and obvious in the art to print bitmap data. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns setting printer settings by a printer control apparatus using an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data and a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein the partial setting screen is a screen in which the entire print attribute is reflected. The partial setting screen has a designation field to receive a designation of a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute to be applied, and the entire setting screen does not have the designation.

Claims 1, 7, 11 and 13

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method executed in an information processing apparatus which has a printer driver to generate print data which a printing apparatus can process. The printing control method includes a first displaying step of displaying an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute

to be applied to the entire print data; a second displaying step of displaying a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein the partial setting screen is a screen in which the entire print attribute is reflected; and a generating step of generating the print data to print a print material in which the entire print attribute and the partial print attribute are reflected. The partial setting screen has a designation field to receive a designation of a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute to be applied, and the entire setting screen does not have the designation.

Applicant submits that Suzuki neither discloses nor suggests all of the features of the present invention. Specifically, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest an entire setting screen to set an entire print attribute to be applied to the entire print data and a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein the partial setting screen is a screen in which the entire print attribute is reflected. The partial setting screen has a designation field to receive a designation of a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute to be applied, and the entire setting screen does not have the designation.

In contrast to the present invention, Suzuki discloses a print control system that manages a print job on a page basis. According to Suzuki, JDFs specifying the print attributes for respective pages in a print job are stored. In the Office action, it is contended that Suzuki, at Column 9, Lines 45 to 56, discloses displaying a page setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a designated page in response to an instruction input using a setting screen of a printer driver, wherein the page setting screen is a screen on which a user can confirm the print attribute set in said first setting step. Applicant respectfully disagrees with such a characterization of Suzuki. Applicant submits that the cited portions of Suzuki merely disclose displaying image data to enable a user to confirm contents of pages before printing. However,

such image data merely represent contents of a page. Therefore, Suzuki fails to disclose displaying image data in which a print attribute is reflected. In the present invention, a partial setting screen is displayed to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data. As featured in the claims, the partial setting screen is a screen in which the entire print attribute is reflected.

Accordingly, the partial setting screen (shown in Fig. 7 and at Lines 7 to 11 in Paragraph 0080 of the present application) is displayed in which the print attribute set using the entire setting screen (shown in Fig. 6). Thus, a user can use the partial setting screen for setting the partial print attribute to check the entire print attribute that is set using the entire setting screen. However, such a technical effect cannot be achieved in a system in accordance with the disclosure of Suzuki. In such a system, a user cannot check the print attribute even if the user watches the image data in Suzuki. Therefore, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest displaying a partial setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a part of the print data, wherein the partial setting screen is a screen in which the entire print attribute is reflected.

Furthermore, in an additional feature of the present invention, the partial setting screen has a designation field to receive a designation of a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is to be applied, but the entire setting screen does not have such a designation field. The disclosures of Suzuki do not include such a feature. Instead, Suzuki disclose, at Column 12, Lines 38 to 52, that job description files are read out from a memory and print attributes in the job description files can bee changed.

Therefore, neither the partial setting screen having a designation field to receive a designation of a page as the part of the print data to which the partial print attribute is to be

applied, nor the entire setting screen that does not have the designation field are disclosed or suggested by Suzuki.

In light of the deficiencies of Suzuki as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 7, 11 and 13 are directed to an apparatus, a system and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7, 11 and 13 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claims 18, 24 and 30

Claim 18 is directed to a printing control method to be executed in an information processing apparatus to set a print attribute to print a document. The printing control method comprises a first displaying step of displaying a first setting screen to set a first print attribute to be applied to the document; a second displaying step of displaying a second setting screen to set a second print attribute to be applied to a page designated by user, wherein the second print attribute is different from the first print attribute; and a generating step of generating print data to print a print material in which the first print attribute is reflected for the document when the first print attribute is set, whereas generating print data to print a print material in which the second print attribute is reflected for the designated page and the first print attribute is reflected for the page different from the designated page when the first print attribute and the second print attribute are set, wherein the second setting screen has a field to designate a page to which the second print attribute is applied.

Claims 24 and 30 are directed to an apparatus and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with Claim 18.

Applicant submits that the discussion from above in support of Claim 1 applies as well to Claims 18, 24 and 30. Specifically, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest displaying a first setting screen to set a first print attribute to be applied to the document, a second setting screen to set a second print attribute to be applied to a page designated by user, wherein the second print attribute is different from the first print attribute and a generating step of generating print data to print a print material in which the first print attribute is reflected for the document when the first print attribute is set, whereas generating print data to print a print material in which the second print attribute is reflected for the designated page and the first print attribute is reflected for the page different from the designated page when the first print attribute and the second print attribute are set, and wherein the second setting screen has a field to designate a page to which the second print attribute is applied.

In light of these deficiencies of Suzuki, Applicant submits that Claims 18, 24 and 30 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

Finally, the previous claim count totaled 10 (20 paid for), with 4 independent claims (8 paid for). The present amendment adds 3 independent claims and 15 dependent claims, bringing the total claim count to 25, with 7 independent claims. In this regard, no claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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